

IRIS CARE

By Peggy Harris

HAPPY MIX Iris fertilizer from Happy Carver

Lava sand,

green sand,

granulated humate,

alfalfa pellets (not rabbit food, not alfalfa meal)

rock phosphate (about 1/4 - 1/5 of what the other ingredients are)

Mix together

Mix 1/4 to 1/2 cup in hole before planting

Or use as top dressing for established clumps

Feed your iris twice a year or when you plant

Valentine's Day

Halloween

Divide in the Fall preferably once the summer heat has broken

A garden fork is the best tool to lift the clump

Separate the rhizomes, cut them with a sharp knife where the rhizomes join

Discard any rhizomes without roots

Trim leaves and roots to about 8"

Loosen the dirt where you plan to plant

Mix fertilizer in dirt

Existing roots are just to hold the plant in place until it makes new roots

Make a fist size hill of dirt then fan the roots and cover with dirt

You should see the top of the rhizome once you have planted it

Do not mulch over the rhizome, you can mulch around the clump

Water the day you plant, then the next day or two, then don't water unless really dry

In the Spring decide whether you are going to water the iris this summer

Water regularly all summer

OR

Do NOT water....Period

If you feel sorry for the iris in August when it is soooo dry and sooo hot,

if you have NOT watering all summer then DO NOT Water the iris now.

It will rot and die.